perillous time, by a few, who have been bewailing their own, and others Abominations, and would not be comforted, until their Redeemer, *who is* holy, *be exalted in Righteousnesse, and his Name which hath been so much blasphemed, be sanctified in the sight of the Nations.*

669. f. 21. 73.

60

THough we cannot but see cause bitterly to bewayle our own great iniquities and failings, under the profession of *Christ*, both as King of Saints and Nations, and the abominations also of an haughty and abusive spirit, found in the late single Person (in a professed pursuite of Reformation) not distinguishing the precious from the vile, in the force he exercised upon the long Parliament (after the Lord had so long honoured them in his work, and preserved in the very fire a faithful Seed among them) which, with the like insulting and contempt, that afterward triumphed over a faithful people in the little Assembly that followed, hath returned in just reproach & shame upon their heads who so insulted, and could not, therfore in that spirit, make any blessed use of the best of men who cleaved to them, the most hopeful means bringing little forth, but meere confusion, yet we cannot but acknowledge to the glory of God on high, that such rebuke was justly poured out upon the prevailing party of the said Parliament; and none but the upright and truly penitent amongst them, in sense both of neglect of duty and great Corruptions, ought of right, or acceptably in our esteeme, to be sharers in the trust of Rule, over the so hardly ransomed People of this *Nation*.

First, Then we do in humility and feare, witnesse against the setting up or introducing any Person whatsoever, as King, or chiefe Magistrate, or a House of Lords, or any other thing of like import, under what name or title soever, or any power arising from the *Nation*, as a Nation upon the old corrupt and almost ruinated constitution, apprehending that the great work of taking the Kingdome from Man, and giving it to Christ, hath had its beginning in the revolutions wee have been under.

Secondly, Wee do humbly witnesse against the foundation of future Violence, of bringing into, or continuing in Authority any who joyned with the late single Person, otherwise then by first manifesting fruit meete for repentance, for such misdemeanors, by which our Rights, both as Christians and as men have bin so much betrayed, and the name of our heavenly Father, after all his works of wonder with us, so much thereby prophaned, to our greatest griefe even throughout and beyond the bounds of these three *Nations*.

Thirdly, Wee do hereby humbly witnesse against the imploying in the Armies, or Navy, any Commanders who have been active in the Resignation of the Government to the deceased single Person, or in the abusing any Christians mett to mourne over their back-slidings and abominations, or that informed against or supplanted their dissenting Brethren, or were principall in contriving or presenting any of the blasphemous or flattering addresses, or were Jaolers or Keepers of their Bretheren, in Holds or Prisons, or that received extraordinary rewards or titles of honour from the late single Person or his Successor, or any deriving power from them, or that acted by either of their Arbitrary Commands, to the banishment of any (without legall Tryall) out of the *Nation*, or that contrived or acted in the unrighteous and shamefull proceeding against such of the late Enemy as lived peaceably, and had no hand in the insurrection, by decimating of them contrary to Articles and publique faith of the *Nation*, unlesse some good proofe of repentance in truth, be manifested for these, or such of these abominations, as they shall be found guilty of.

And positively, we do now desire witnesse for, and humbly assert, that the *right* of making and giving Lawes unto men, *is originally in God*, who hath given this power, as well as the execution thereof, unto *Christ* as hee is the Sonn of man, and therein made universall Lord and Soveraigne over the whole World, and under Christ as his Ministers, a certaine number of men qualified and limitted according to his Word, ought to be sett apart to the Office of chiefe *Rule and Government* over these *Nations*, as part of Christs universall Kingdome. And we do claim, that only men of courage, fearing God, and hating Covetousnesse, might be imployed in the trust of *Rule*, and in all places of publique Judicature; yea, if it be possible, in every place of publique Trust in these three *Nations*. And that all the Lawes respecting the right of men, might be so truly ordered by the Scriptures to the exaltation of Christ, our Lord, King, and Law-giver, as that in point of right no difference might be made betwixt good and bad, nor this or that profession in Religion, but by one right Rule the offendor may be punished, and the injured effectually relieved with expedition: the said Lawes being first so plainely declared, as the poorest in the Land may understand their Case; and that it be dispensed so nigh their dwellings, as that Judgment might not be turned into Wormwood, as hitherto it hath been, through partiality, intricacy, vexatious delayes, and distances.

That as an intollerable burthen and oppression, inconsistent with the Rights aforesaid, or true liberty of Conscience unto all, the Rulers over men forbeare for ever to impose any nationall, parochiall Ministry, so as to inforce any forme of Worship suited to their interest, or compell men of one perswasion, to maintaine any man of another, in the Ministry.

e New-
n Lawes
ew-Eng-
l sold by
Chapman,
n, & 17.

That thus doing Justice, loving Mercy, and walking humbly with our God, which is the good he hath shewed to us, as onely tending to true Settlement, the whole Nation *may be blest, and all iniquity may stopp her mouth, is the* Publique good Old Cause, *we desire may be so revived in truth, as that all the upright in heart throughout the Land may follow it, against every private factious or Carnall (though nationall) spirit and opposition whatsoever, which under the shadowe of the Lord our God Almighty, we sett forth as our Testimony, and Subscribe*

John Owen.	*H. Courtney.*	*Clement Ireton.*	*James Hitt.*	*Hen. Parsons.*
Hen. Jessey.	*Will. Allen.*	*Rob. Rumsey.*	*Jo. Wigan.*	*Ro. Overton.*
Va. Powell.	*Phil. Pinchon.*	*P. Goodricke.*	*H. Danvers.*	*Rich. Saltonstall.*
J. Vernon.	*John Poortmans.*	*R. Price.*	*Rich. Goodgroome.*	*Wentw. Day.*

BRITISH MUSEUM

THe preceding Testimony was prepared, and ready to be published at the breaking forth of the late insurrection, which occasioned a forbearance, least it might seeme at that season to gratify the Adversary; concerning which insurrection, some of us have bin eye witnesses of such abominable treachery, malignity, and enmity in many in eminent power, and in Armes under them, and in the publique Ministry, as more exposed the good Old Cause and people ingaged therein, then these who openly without such power rose up against them, which in due time, if not prevented by effectuall reformation herein, wee intend to witness against with full evidence, to the conviction of such upright ones, as might not see themselves so immediatly exposed, as their brethren were, by the new raised Militia in many places of the Nation.

Judges. 19. 30. *Consider of it, take advice, and speake your minds.*

Printed for *Giles Calvert* at the black Spread-Eagle, at the West-end of Pauls. 1659.

Sept. 19.